

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

August 13, 2015

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August Commission Summary

by Bob Brendel

State Representatives Randy Pietzman (R-Troy) and Tim Remole (R-Excelslo) appeared before the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission last week in Jefferson City to request replacement of bridges in their respective districts.

Pietzman made his case for replacement of the Route H bridge over the Cuivre River near Troy that had its weight limit reduced to 10 tons in June. Remole advocated for replacement of the Route T bridge over Thomas Hill Lake in Macon County which has been closed since February as a result of badly deteriorated girders.

Commission Chairman Stephen Miller applauded the efforts of the representatives, but explained that with 641 critical condition bridges (up from 591 a year ago), and another 1,400 that are load-posted, there are not enough financial resources to go around. These two bridges, both of which are on the 26,000-mile supplementary system, were not recognized as local priorities when regional planners identified projects to be included in the 2016-2020 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.



The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission take a moment during the August meeting for a group photo after swearing in its newest member, Mary Nelson of St. Louis. Left to right: Commissioner Michael Pace, new Commissioner Mary Nelson, Vice Chairman Lloyd Carmichael, Chairman Stephen Miller, Commissioner Michael Waters and Commissioner Gregg Smith.

Innovations Challenge program have been packaged online where they may be accessed by interested parties. She said the posting has attracted considerable feedback from other states.

The Commission also heard an update on MoDOT's flood response. Since May 15, Broecker said, MoDOT has had nearly 1,000 total road closures as a result of flooding in 102 of Missouri's 114 counties. Damage to roads and bridges is estimated to be in excess of \$3 million and MoDOT crews have worked more than 31,000 hours, time that could have been spent on other tasks.

Traffic Safety – Sgt. Bill Lowe of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, MoDOT Highway Safety Director Bill Whitfield and Traffic Liaison Engineer John Miller gave a presentation to the MHTC on their efforts to reduce fatalities and serious injuries on Missouri's roadways.

Lowe explained how Highway Patrol programs like the "20-mile trooper" on holiday weekends, DWI saturations and checkpoints and education efforts with young drivers have contributed to a reduction in fatalities and serious injuries. He stressed the importance of seat belt use and not speeding, being distracted or impaired.

Whitfield said highway fatalities in Missouri have been reduced by 40 percent since 2005; although, he noticed the trend was relatively flat for the last four years and that so far in 2015, fatalities are up seven percent over a year ago. He said the current goal of the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety is 700 or fewer fatalities by the end of 2016 toward the ultimate goal of zero.

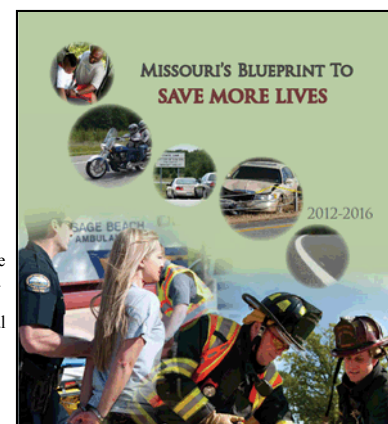
Miller explained MoDOT's philosophy of making statewide safety improvements rather than chasing individual accident locations.

OTHER ITEMS

New Commissioner – The Commission welcomed its newest member, Mary Nelson of St. Louis. She has a long and distinguished record of public service and currently is general counsel and chief legal officer for the St. Louis Community College District. She said she was honored to be serving the MHTC "at a critical time for the state of Missouri and this Commission." She was also elected to fill a vacancy on the board of trustees for the MoDOT and Patrol Employees' Retirement System.

Director's Report – Interim Director Roberta Broecker reported to the Commission that the Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement Program that was completed in 2012 has won a National Award of Merit from the Design-Build Institute of America. She noted that the statewide bridge program was an innovative approach that is now being emulated by other states.

Broecker said MoDOT's focus on innovation is being shared with other DOTs and local public works departments. MoDOT's best-practice innovations identified through the



Improvements have included: 800 miles of median guard cable that has been responsible for saving more than 400 lives, 3,300 miles of new paved shoulders, 10,000 miles of rumble strips to reduce run-off-the-road crashes, construction of 19 J-turns and use of high-friction surface treatments. He acknowledged, though, "With limited future investments in safety improvements we may not be able to meet our fatality reduction goal."



Joplin Building Sold –Vice Chairman Joe Carmichael noted that the Consent Agenda included the sale of the former Joplin district office. He said it was the most valuable piece of property that was closed during reorganization as part of the Bolder Five-Year Direction. The \$3.2 million sale will close in the coming weeks.

Rainbow Connection – Peggy Carlisle of Lincoln County, owner of Rainbow Connection, Inc., appeared before the Commission to detail a dispute with the Walsh Alberici Joint Venture that is building the Boone Bridge connecting St. Charles and St. Louis Counties. The Commission asked that she share any documentation she has with MoDOT's Chief Counsel.

STAND ↑ UP FOR SAFETY

MoDOT's first annual Stand Up for Safety Day will be October 8. This is a special day set aside for all employees to focus on what we do and how we do it. We will spend the day making improvements in our five safety areas and recommit ourselves to working safely every day:

**I'm Safe
What I Use is Safe
Where I Am is Safe
My Customers are Safe
So We Go Home Safe**

Commissioner Michael Pace, with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission, announces this upcoming event in a short video.

Watch for more details coming soon!



Watch a short video of Commissioner Pace announcing MoDOT's first Stand Up for Safety Day.

Medical Plan Changes and Options

by Jeff Padgett

I'm sure that most, if not all, employees have heard that there are upcoming changes and options for our 2016 medical plans. We have been sharing this information through user emails, Connections articles and the district weekly PowerPoint. In the coming weeks we will continue sharing this information through these communication tools, in upcoming workshops and employee fall meetings.

2016 Medical Plan PPO

- Our Commission has approved increases to our current medical plan for 2016. The decision to increase premiums is never easy. However, the cost of paying claims increased significantly during 2014 and is expected to increase again in 2015.
- While active employees in the PPO option will see a rate increase between \$7 and \$18, the Commission's average contribution per employee will increase between \$24 and \$75. We are fortunate that the Commission continues to provide 80 percent of the premium on behalf of active employees.

High Deductible Health Plan with a Health Savings Account

- The Commission also approved a High Deductible Health Plan with a Health Savings Account option.
- There will be an open enrollment period from Oct. 1 through Nov. 13 for coverage beginning Jan. 1, 2016. Workshops are being held in districts and divisions, so check with your local



benefits staff, and plan to attend to see how this new option could be beneficial to you.

- All information about this new plan, including an easy to follow video and FAQ's, is located on the website.

**Lower
Premium**



You are encouraged to visit the website to review all the information, including the 2016 medical rate chart for our PPO and the new High Deductible Health Plan with Health Savings Account at <http://modot.org/newsandinfo/benefits.htm> and to contact our employee benefits staff if you have any questions at 877-863-9406.



It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.

Harry S. Truman

It is the mission of the EAC to foster and enhance a positive work environment for all MoDOT employees.

Report Card Results

by Machel Watkins

The Statewide Report Card results are in, and more than eight out of every 10 Missourians are satisfied with the job MoDOT is doing. This is a level of customer satisfaction that most organizations would love to brag about. In fact, we trail the best in all industries (Chick-fil-A) by only 5 percent.

We can be proud of an 81 percent satisfaction score, but it's four percent lower than our top score in 2013. This year's report also shows customer scores on some individual MoDOT services have dropped slightly.

Some other interesting information from the report:

Nearly all MoDOT customers say our communication is accurate, timely and understandable:

- 93 percent Accurate
- 92 percent Timely
- 93 percent Understandable

The top six services identified by our customers are:

- Keep major roads in good condition
- Keep bridges in good condition
- Manage snow & ice
- Provide bright highway stripes
- Provide easy-to-understand signs
- Keep minor roads in good condition

And the good news is 87 percent of Missourians are willing to pay more to adequately fund transportation.

The results will be discussed during the Aug. 20 statewide Tracker meeting and shared with the Commission in September.

You can click [here](#) to read the full report – [Report Card from Missourians](#).



Attention 2015 Service Award Recipients!

**MoDOT Service
Awards Program**

Starting Aug. 3, 2015, the service award vendor will begin mailing out your brochure packet with the gifts you are eligible to receive. Please keep your eyes open for this packet to arrive at your home address.

Instructions for placing your order will be included in the packet.



Getting Arrested Could Be the Least of Your Worries - Missouri law enforcement reminds motorists to Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over

by Kelly Jackson

Labor Day weekend brings a surge of travel across the nation. During the summer's last holiday, many will make the conscious mistake of driving impaired - and we're not just talking about alcohol. A person can also be arrested for driving under the influence of illegal drugs such as cocaine, marijuana, other controlled substances or even prescription medication.



Getting arrested could be the least of your worries. A substance-impaired driving arrest could cost you thousands of dollars in fines, court costs and lawyer fees, not to mention you could also lose your license, lose your job, or worse yet - take someone's life!

This year's Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over high-visibility crackdown will run Aug. 14 through the Labor Day holiday on Sept. 7.

"Impaired driving continues to be a huge concern on Missouri roadways," said Colonel Bret Johnson, superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. "We will continue our year-round efforts of enforcing Missouri's DWI laws and, through this campaign, create public awareness to the dangers substance-impaired driving causes on our highways."

Statewide, law enforcement made 314 DWI arrests, 27 DUI drug arrests, 11 drug influence arrests and 127 MIP's during this campaign in 2014.

National Highway Transportation Safety Administration data shows that drivers respond well to this type of high visibility enforcement. Past campaigns have resulted in a 20 percent decrease in substance-impaired crash fatalities. On average, one person will die every 34 minutes in an impaired driving crash over the Labor Day period. That's a lot of lives that could be saved.

"Each day lives are drastically changed or lost in preventable traffic crashes caused by substance-impaired driving," said Bill Whitfield, executive chair to the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety. "In

2014, 197 people were killed and 703 were seriously injured in Missouri crashes that involved at least one substance-impaired driver."

We are all a part of the solution. To learn more about substance-impaired driving and how you can Arrive Alive, visit saveMOLives.com, or follow social media at Save MO Lives, #DriveSoberMO.



What's Happening



EAC Minutes Available

Minutes from the Employee Advisory Council's June meeting have been posted on the EAC SharePoint site. You can access them by using this link: [EAC Meeting Minutes June 2015.pdf](#).

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the EAC at: eac@modot.mo.gov.

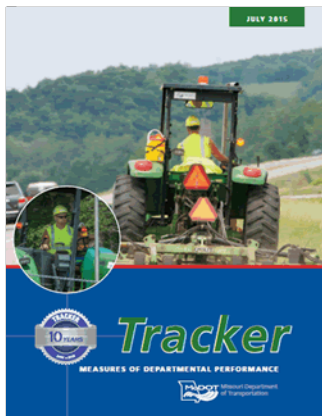


August Deferred Compensation Update

As a state of Missouri employee, once you reach certain retirement eligibility requirements, you will receive a pension. This is a guaranteed monthly benefit that will last the duration of your retirement once you leave state employment.

Watch this video from Deferred Comp to help understand how your retirement benefit, social security and personal savings work together to provide for your future.

[August DC Update.](#)



Tracker Available

The July 2015 MoDOT Tracker and Supplement are available at: <http://sharepoint/Tracker/SitePages/TrackerResources.aspx>.

The statewide Tracker meeting will be held Aug. 20.



Saint Louis Team Discounts for State Employees

Special offers are available to state employees for the **Cardinals** baseball games Sept. 5 and 6 and for **Rams** football season tickets.

Tickets are first come through the Cardinals and Rams websites until the special ticket seats are sold out.

The St. Louis **Blues** hockey team is offering discounts for groups of 20 or more - [Blues hockey](#).

For all the current special ticket offers available to State Employees, click on this link to the Office of Administration - [Special Offers](#).

August Service Anniversaries

30 Years

Norman L. Sawyer - NW
Sally Eugenia Crump - KC
James R. Hayes - CD
Phillip P. Wilson - SL
Robert Michael Shaw - SL
Paul R. Bryan - SW
Gary Steven Goessmann - SW

25 Years

Willard Eugene Collins - KC
Thomas Clay Gregg - KC
Daniel S. Pierce - KC
Kelley L. Anspach - KC

15 Years

William D. Gallagher - NW
Ronnie Eugene Burris - NW
George Irvin Brockhaus - NW
Scott Walter McLaughlin - NE
Jason Alan Smith - NE
Michael A. Fuls - KC
Melissa Ann Roberts - KC
Joseph G. Moore -CD
Gidget Joyce Mott - CD
Janet Renee Rath - SL
Christopher John Hohowski - SL
Rachelle K. Hynes - SL
Laura Ann Campbell - SL

10 Years

Charles Lee Ahnefeld - NW
William Theodore Elder - NE
Joseph H. Haggard - NE
John Leander Moore - NE
Lindsay M. Harris - KC
Debra Jean Walter - KC
Michael Lloyd Hall - CD
James F. Mengwasser - CD
Dustin J. Hardy - CD
Chad M. Pillow - SL
Kenneth A. Birke - SL
Douglas Arthur Borgmann - SL
Kristopher M. Eckhoff - SW

Allan Charles Haslag - CD
Douglas R. Garner - CD
James Malcolm Slone - CO

20 Years

Eddy D. Oswalt - NW
Carla R. Farrington - NE
Douglas J. Crookshanks - KC
Timothy J. Porter - CD
Ralph A. Zuroweste - CD
Rodney Joseph Colbert - CD
Richard S. Uptegrove - SW
David Lee Myers - SW
Terry Arnold Miller - SE
Lyron Scott Arthur - CO
Robert Samuel Marshall - CO
James Edward Davis - CO

Phillip M. Jones - SL
Clint Ray Durrington - SW
Randy D. Myers - SW
Ronald D. Combs - SW
Andrew J. McNeill - SW
Wilber Lee Berry - SW
Douglas Glenn Kemmett - SE
Derek Francis Fichtel - SE
Douglas S. Inman - SE
Ronald Jacob Varvera - SE
Clover Sue Refitt - CO
Russell Mark Weisman - CO
Pamela Lee Orr - CO

Eric E. Bowers - SW
Stoney J. Dailey - SE
Ardita Roark - CO

5 Years

Vaden Woolard - CD
Gregory McDowell - KC
Gabrielle Suzanne Hollmann - SL
Mark Steven Drennon - SL
Scott Allen Oliver - SW
James Leonard Lawrence - SW
Joseph Britian Morey - SE
Harley James Chapman - SE

Connections

The mission of Connections is to be a source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide.

Communications - MoDOT
P.O. Box 270, Jefferson City, MO 65102
573.751.2840 / www.modot.org

Editor: Tammy Wallace

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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August Wellness Newsletter



August is National Breastfeeding Month. Take steps this month to learn more about the process and how you can support new mothers who decide to breastfeed. Tips for family, friends, spouses and partners are included.

This month's newsletter also features information on osteoporosis, including tips for prevention like:

- Get enough calcium
- Add vitamin D to your diet
- Stay active
- Stop smoking
- Put down the alcohol

Read August's wellness newsletter from Coventry – [Newsletter](#).

Central Office Happenings

Cyber Crimes

Aug. 25 – 2 to 3 p.m.

By Corporal Scott White

Central Office Conference Room 100

or anywhere via video conference

We have all seen the headlines about cyber bullying and how it affects our youth. Here are some startling statistics from the Bureau of Justice Statistics:

- 96 percent of teens use social networking applications such as Facebook, MySpace, chat rooms and blogs.
- Only 15 percent of parents are “in the know” about their kids’ social networking habits and how these behaviors can lead to cyber bullying.
- 21 percent of K-2nd grade kids have access to cell phones.



Corporal White, with the Missouri State Highway Patrol Troop F, will be sharing tips on how to make sure our children are safe online and the pros and cons of cell phones at school.

Space is limited for the in-person class at Central Office, so check with your supervisor, then sign up through MoDOT U.

Or contact Amanda Woody Amanda.woody@modot.mo.gov or 573-526-5617 for video conferencing.



New Medical Plan Workshops

Benefits staff will present information about the new High Deductible Health Plan and Health Savings Account option at several division and district meetings in the coming months. For those of you not able to attend your division or district meeting, you can enroll in one of the workshops listed below by logging on the new MoDOT U.

Once logged in, you will need to perform a search for "HDHP Workshop" and pick which class you would like to attend.

More workshops will be added based on demand.

Aug. 18 - 9 to 11 a.m. - CO Room 303

Aug. 20 - 1 to 3 p.m. - CO Purple Room

These meetings are intended to provide you with enough information to help you make an informed decision on which plan option is best for you and your family. Your attendance is not mandatory, and you are not required to switch plans.

Additional information on this new option is available on the Employee Benefits website at <http://www.modot.org/newsandinfo/benefits.htm>.



First Aid/CPR/AED Classes

Monday Aug. 17

Noon to 3:30 p.m.

601 West Main Street - Training Room B.

There are a few spots available, so check with your supervisor, then sign up through the new LMS Student Center MoDOT U (LMS Course Code 24597, titled First Aid/CPR – Infant & CPR/AED – Adult & Child.)

Contact Allison Heintz - allison.heintz@modot.mo.gov or 751-526-7860.



Second Annual Slow Pitch Softball

WHO: Open to all MoDOT employees and their significant others. Team minimum of 10 people. Limited to 15 teams.

Full rosters will reserve a team spot.

WHEN: Saturday, Sept. 19

8 a.m. (depending on number of teams)

PRICE: \$100 per team. To pay the umpires and for the field.

All remaining money will be donated to the Charitable Campaign.

WHERE: Binder Sports Complex, 300 Binder Lake, Jefferson City.

RULES: A minimum of one girl must be on the playing field. ASA rules.

Complete a roster and send to Kevin Kiesling by August 21.

Click here for [Tournament Flyer](#)

Click here for [Tournament Roster](#)

For questions, contact:

Amanda Woody - Amanda.Woody@modot.mo.gov or (573) 526-5617

Kevin Kiesling - Kevin.Kiesling@modot.mo.gov or (573) 526-5634

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New CPS Technicians

Do you transport children in your vehicle? Are they under 80 pounds or less than 4'9" tall? If so, they are required to ride in a safety or booster seat, according to Missouri law. The best way to make sure your young passengers are as safe as possible is to make sure their child passenger safety seat is properly installed and is the correct seat for the child.

Thanks to a Northwest Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety grant, there are eighteen new Child Passenger Safety Technicians in the Northwest Region trained to properly fit and inspect safety and booster seats. Students from across the 20-county area attended a three-day class that included classroom training, hands-on instruction and a car seat check. The class was organized by Senior General Services Technician Lana Allen who serves on the Coalition as the child passenger safety liaison.

The free car seat check was open to the public and was the culmination of the class, allowing the new technicians to put their classroom knowledge to practical use. More than fifteen car seats were checked during the course of the day, meaning fifteen children are riding safely, thanks to the students' commitment to child passenger safety.

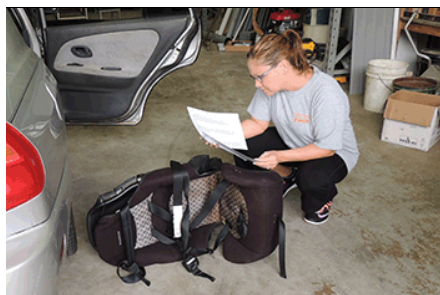
These new technicians can now take their certifications back to their local areas and organize car seat checks through their own agencies, or in partnership with other agencies, and ensure even more children are riding in a properly installed, up-to-date, correct and properly fitted car seat or booster seat.



Four instructors traveled to the Northwest Conference Center to lead the three-day class.



Students first got acquainted with the different parts of various car seats in the classroom setting.



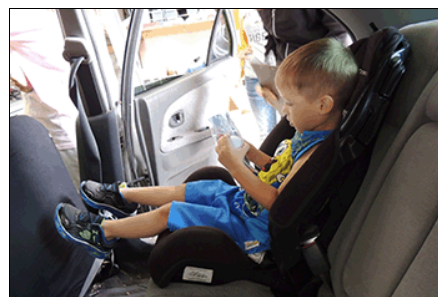
During the free car seat check, many different types of car seats were installed and inspected. The new technicians were able to refer to the instructions included with a new car seat to help them with the installation process.



Multiple car seats were installed or checked, sometimes in the same vehicle. Here two technicians check a rear-facing seat and a booster to ensure the safest ride possible for the children using them.



Inspecting or installing a car seat can often involve really getting into your work as this technician shows, by climbing into the vehicle to ensure the best fit.



This young rider played with some of the toys he was given as he waits patiently for the harness of his seat to be properly fitted.

Mapping Out A New School Year

Shawn Dougherty, an educator at Northgate Middle School in the Kansas City Public School District, contacted us via Twitter to request maps for his bulletin board for the new school year. Shawn loves maps and wanted to share that love with his students.

He picked up a case of maps as well as several county maps for counties in the NW District and the KC District.

Shawn shared his incredible bulletin board he made out of the maps with us on Twitter and included a special shout out to @MoDOTNorthwest.



Thanks Shawn, for the shout out and for the time you invest in your students!

For more info

Marcia Johnson
Communications Specialist
Northwest District
816.387.2495
Marcia.Johnson@modot.mo.gov

3602 N. Belt Highway
St. Joseph, MO 64506-1399

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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This "Puppy" is Free to a Good Home



A press conference was held on the Champ Clark Bridge at Louisiana on August 12 to discuss the inspection and condition of the bridge.

The historic Champ Clark Bridge spanning the Mississippi River between Louisiana, Mo. and Illinois, is not as cute as a puppy dog with sad eyes asking for adoption in the local newspaper, but it is free to a good home.

"In anticipation that the bridge will be replaced within the next several years, we are promoting its reuse to organizations across the country," explained MoDOT Historic Preservation Specialist Karen Daniels.

Karen and her staff have already done some free advertising on historic bridge websites, and this week, the free bridge was promoted to regional media during a press conference.

"Since the bridge is not currently funded for construction, we have time to promote the historic bridge to a much broader audience," she said.

The press conference was held during an annual inspection of the 90-year-old structure. A local filmmaker also participated by documenting the inspection process, and one television station attached a GoPro camera to the inspector to use as news footage.

"Every time we inspect the bridge, we keep our fingers crossed nothing significant is found that is going to cause us to close the bridge," said MoDOT Area Engineer Brian Haeffner.

Last year, the bridge was posted for 40 tons, which means no oversized or overweight vehicles can cross the Mississippi River on a major highway, U.S. 54. Just a few days prior to the inspection, MoDOT crews discovered a joint in the bridge that had deteriorated to the point it had to be immediately repaired. More permanent repairs are being made this week while the bridge is closed for inspection.

"The bottom line is this bridge has served the region well for 90 years, and we just keep putting band aids on it to keep it open," Haeffner explained.

While this "puppy" might be free to a good home, it's going to need a little bit of tender loving care to keep it alive.

Around the District...



Pictured above is a tanker that ended up in the median on westbound I-70 in Montgomery County. Thankfully no one was hurt.



Lester Woods, external civil rights director for MoDOT, spoke at a community event held in Mexico that offered CDL Training to area individuals.



Area crews have been completing chip seal operations around the district. Pictured is the New Florence crew in Montgomery County.



Resurfacing, shoulder improvements and a curve improvement are all part of the Route U project in Lincoln County. Pictured above is Route U and Sand Run Road where the contractor is softening the curve.

For more info

Marisa Brown-Ellison
Communications Manager
Northeast District
573.248.2502
Marisa.Ellison@modot.mo.gov

1711 S. Highway 61
Hannibal, MO 63401

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Kansas City
District

KC Scout Introduces Ramp Meters Along U.S. Route 69

Drivers along northbound U.S. 69 near the 135th Street interchange regularly feel the pain of a stop-and-go commute during the work week. But KC Scout – a traffic management center funded by Kansas and MoDOT – has a solution to ease some of the pressure.

This week, KC Scout will activate a set of [ramp meters](#) at U.S. 69 and 135th Street in Overland Park.

Ramp meters are special traffic signals that regulate the rate at which vehicles enter the freeway from the on-ramps, which in turn, helps improve safety and decrease congestion by improving the flow of traffic.

These specialized signals work and look similar to traffic signals. Drivers must obey them as they would other traffic signals. A red light means stop, a green light means go.

“Ramp meters may work like traffic signals but they are also very different,” said Mark Sommerhauser, KC Scout project manager. “The timing is quick and meant to keep traffic moving. A typical ramp meter cycle is two seconds of green and two to 10 seconds of red. The wait on the ramp is one minute or less.”



Ramp Meters and KC: Safety is in the Mix

This is not KC Scout's first foray into ramp metering. The KC Scout team installed a [series in Kansas and Missouri on Interstate 435 in 2009](#). In addition to increasing traffic movement, there was a substantial decrease in crashes.

Of all the crashes that occurred along I-435 prior to ramp meter installation, *more than half were attributed to merging.*

“Before ramp metering was added to I-435, nearly 75 percent of the crashes that could be attributed to merging on I-435 were rear ends,” Sommerhauser said. “Crashes during rush hours on I-435 dropped 64 percent after the ramp meters were installed.”

These statistics were not limited to the metro. Ramp meter evaluation studies in Milwaukee, Portland, Detroit, and Denver have shown that ramp meters can reduce crashes by 26 to 50 percent when metering is applied throughout the highway systems of metropolitan communities.

Ramp Meters: The Unseen benefits

While the goal of ramp metering is to get commuters from point A to point B as efficiently and safely as possible, ramp meters can benefit the environment at the same time.

When they promote smoother traffic flow and allow motorists to drive at or near the posted speed limit, roadways reduce the amount of vehicle pollutants that are released into the air.

Ramp meters help reduce vehicle emissions and fuel consumption by decreasing the time that cars spend waiting in traffic. Any time spent waiting on freeway on-ramps is made up in travel time savings once on the freeway.

Learn more about ramp meters -- and the many benefits to traffic -- on www.kcscout.net/rampmetering. Also [check out this video](#) on the congestion on U.S. 69 and the benefits of ramp metering this intersection.

To learn more about KC Scout, visit www.kcscout.net or find them on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

MoDOT Co-Hosts MAASTO's 106th Annual Meeting

More than 500 attendees from 10 different states participated in the 106th Annual meeting of the [Mid America Association of State Transportation Officials \(MAASTO\)](#) in Kansas City, Aug. 10–13 in Overland Park, KS. Dozens of MoDOT and KDOT staff worked together for months to plan and staff this year's annual conference, which had the theme of “Transportation . . . Moving Economies Forward.”

MoDOT Governmental Relations Director Jay Wunderlich kicked off the opening session on Tuesday, Aug. 11, as the emcee of the event with both Kansas DOT Secretary Mike King and MoDOT Interim Director Roberta Broeker both giving comments as the state co-hosts.

Attendees spent the majority of the rest of Tuesday in nine technical sessions on subjects like freight with MoDOT Administrator of Freight and Waterways Cheryl Ball; the major projects session with MoDOT Construction and Materials Liaison Engineer Randy Hitt, Transportation Project Designer Lisa Stupps and District Planning Manager Susan Barry; and the public involvement session with MoDOT Area Engineer Matt Killion presenting among many others.

Some visitors also took in technical tours to the downtown [KC Streetcar project](#), Garmin headquarters, Logistics Park KC Intermodal facility, and the [Johnson County Gateway Interchange project](#). Wednesday participants visited vendor booths and had nine additional technical sessions to attend.

The Mississippi Valley Conference of State Highway and Transportation Officials (MVC) was organized in 1907, prior to the establishment of a national transportation organization, which later became known as AASHTO. In 2010, the organization changed its name to MAASTO to better reflect the location of the member states. The goal of MAASTO, is to foster the development, operation, and maintenance of an integrated and balanced transportation system that adequately serves the transportation needs of the ten member states.

AASHTO divides its member departments into four geographical regions. The MAASTO consists of 10 states primarily in the Midwest including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin.



For more info

Melissa Black
Communications Manager,
Missouri Department of Transportation
Melissa.Black@modot.mo.gov
P: (816) 607-2027
F: (816) 365-0860

600 NE Colbern Road
Lee's Summit, MO 64086

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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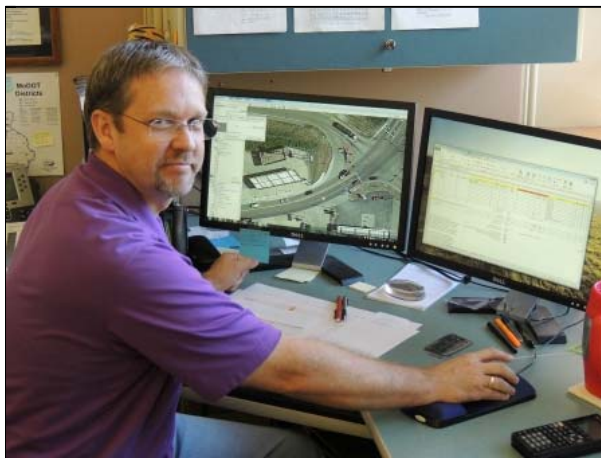
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Beattie Serving on Pedestrian Task Force

MoDOT prides itself on being an active participant in conversations about keeping Missouri pedestrians safe. Senior Highway Designer James Beattie is just one of many district employees who understand the importance of educating the public about pedestrian safety.

Beattie is currently serving as MoDOT's ambassador on Columbia Mayor Bob McDavid's Task Force on Pedestrian Safety.

Beattie was named to the 19-member task force in June and was selected by the district because of his experience with pedestrian/bicycle safety design guidelines. The highway designer also has the added benefit of being a 17-year resident of Columbia.



The task force meets monthly to evaluate available resources and provide the City of Columbia with recommendations about what citizens can do to reduce pedestrian injuries and fatalities. Beattie and the task force are currently studying pedestrian accident histories and hope to help the city develop a strategy to reduce vehicle/pedestrian collisions.

"We're hoping to develop recommendations that save lives and eliminate pedestrian collisions," said Beattie. "Initially, we're considering and developing possible strategies through education, outreach, enforcement, public policy, engineering and design."

Beattie and the task force will continue to develop educational plans, findings and strategies through next year. The task force is scheduled to present its final report to McDavid and the city council in May of 2016.

Around the District



Vienna Senior Maintenance Worker Justin Fagre mans traffic control with a smile during a recent culvert pipe repair operation on Route AA in Maries County.

Assistant District Engineer Travis Koestner gives a presentation to the residents of the Terrace Retirement Community in Columbia about the



Columbia Interstate 70 Bridges Project and the city's Diverging Diamond Interchange.



Transportation Planning Manager Mike Dusenberg (left) and Highway Designer Cyrus Miller (right) speak with a citizen at a public meeting about plans to replace the Route AA bridge over Smiley Creek near Tipton.

For more info

Sally Oxenhandler
Communications Manager
Central District
573-522-3375
Sally.Oxenhandler@modot.mo.gov

1511 Missouri Boulevard
P.O. Box 718
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Comments & Suggestions

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Selected Teams Advance for Route 141 Design-Build Project

by Andrew Gates

MoDOT has received Statements of Qualification (SOQ) from several teams interested in competing for the contract to design and construct improvements on Route 141 at I-44 and at Vance Road in St. Louis County. These SOQs have been evaluated and five teams have been pre-qualified to proceed.

"We are very pleased with the interest we received for this project. We have some great teams with experience in designing and constructing innovative projects. We look forward to working with these teams as we continue through the procurement process this fall. With this level of experience and innovation, we are confident that we will get as much work as we can with the limited funding we have identified for this project," said David Simmons, project director.



The prequalified teams are as follows:

Team Name:	Major Participants:
KCI Construction Company, Inc.	KCI Construction Company, Inc. Parsons Brinckerhoff
Millstone Weber, LLC	Millstone Weber, LLC Parsons Transportation Group, Inc.
St. Louis Bridge Construction Company	St. Louis Bridge Construction Company Hanson Professional Services, Inc.
Pace Construction Company, LLC	Pace Construction Company, LLC AECOM Technical Services, Inc. Kuesel Excavating Company, Inc. Lochmueller Group
Goodwin Brothers Construction Company	Goodwin Brothers Construction Company Crawford, Murphy and Tilly, Inc.

There are still opportunities for additional consultants and subcontracting firms to be added to each team.

Design build is a project delivery method that combines both the design and construction phases into one contract. This one contract team completes the design and construction in parallel instead of in succession, which saves time and resources.

MoDOT will issue the Request for Proposal in early September. The department will continue to work through the procurement process through the fall. The contractor should be selected in January 2016 and construction could start as early as next spring.

For more project information, visit the web site at www.modot.org/Route141.

Page Team Honored by AASHTO

by Jessica Hochlan



Congratulations to the Route 364/Page Phase 3 team. They recently received a regional award in the America's Transportation Awards competition. The project was honored in the "Quality of Life/Community Development" category for reducing congestion on I-64 and I-70 and reducing commute times of local residents.

The top ten regional winners with the highest overall scores will now compete for the National Grand Prize and the People's Choice Award, which will be announced in September at the AASHTO Annual Meeting in Chicago.

The Page Team received their award at the MAASTO conference in Kansas City, MO on Aug. 11.

For more info

Marie Elliott
Communications Manager
St. Louis District
314-453-1807
Marie.Elliott@modot.mo.gov

1590 Woodlake Drive
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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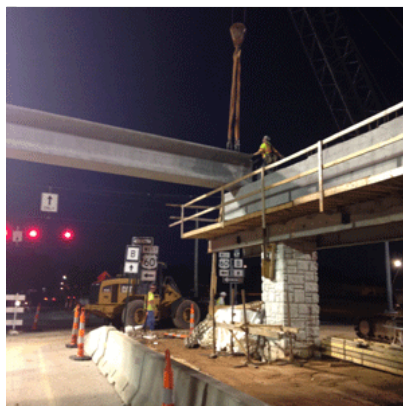
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Southwest District at Work



KEEP IT CLEAN (upper left) – Customer Service Representative Tonya Staeger (center) recognizes volunteers at the Missouri Department of Conservation Nature Center for their participation in the Adopt-a-Highway program. They are responsible for picking up trash along Nature Center Way in south Springfield. Central Office chose them to receive a gift for participating in the No MORE Trash! Bash in April. The Nature Center volunteers have gone out twice each month picking up trash since 2003. (Photo/Nicole Hodges)

THIS IS A TEST (upper right) – Springfield Senior Construction Inspector Craig Huckaby prepares a sample of concrete for testing at the new Diverging Diamond Interchange under construction at U.S. Route 65 and Battlefield Road in Springfield. (Photo/David Mitchell)

A LITTLE MORE TO THE RIGHT – A MoDOT contractor helps guide a girder in place for a new bridge at U.S. Route 60 and Webster County Route B/VV in Rogersville. The new bridge is part of the Project Freeway: U.S. 60 Rogersville design/build project scheduled for completion in December 2016. (Photo/Garen McElroy)

District Engineer Baltz Talks Transportation, Funding on OPT

Southwest District Engineer Becky Baltz took MoDOT's Tough Choices message to the air waves on July 23.

Baltz was part of a panel discussion on Ozarks Public Television's program, "Sense of Community." She was on a panel with Ozarks Transportation Organization Executive Director Sara Fields and Springfield Public Works Director Dan Smith.

The public affairs program focused on the health of Missouri's roads and bridges and the consequences of MoDOT's declining revenues.



Southwest District Engineer Becky Baltz talks about transportation issues on Ozarks Public Television July 23. Click the image above to watch "Sense of Community" in its entirety.

The hour-long broadcast featured questions and comments from viewers sent via e-mail and social media as well as from moderator Scott Harvey.

You can view the program in its entirety by clicking on the image above.

For more info

Jennifer Williams
Communications Manager
Southwest District
417.895.7713
Jennifer.Williams@modot.mo.gov

3025 E. Kearney
P.O. Box 868
Springfield, MO 65801

Comments & Suggestions

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Get Ready to Rock N' Roll Up Your Sleeve!

Sept. 1 at Willow Springs Regional Office

The Southeast District invites you to Rock N' Roll up your sleeve! The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at the Southeast District Regional Office in Willow Springs from 7 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1.

One pint of blood has the ability to save up to three lives. The American Red Cross is the nation's largest blood collection organization, supplying approximately 40 percent of the blood and blood products used in our country. Your contribution could benefit accident victims, cancer patients, surgical candidates, children with blood disorders and many others.

The demand for blood donations is constant. Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood, totaling 41,000 blood donations that are needed every day.

According to the American Red Cross, remember these tips for a successful donation:

- Maintain a healthy iron level in your diet by eating iron rich foods, such as red meat, fish, poultry, beans, spinach, iron-fortified cereals and raisins.
- Get a good night's sleep.
- Drink an extra 16 oz. of water or nonalcoholic fluids before the donation.
- Eat a healthy meal before your donation. Avoid fatty foods, such as hamburgers, fries or ice cream before donating. (Fatty foods can affect the tests we do on your blood. If there is too much fat in your blood, your donation cannot be tested for infectious diseases and the blood will not be used for transfusion.)
- If you are a platelet donor, remember that your system must be free of aspirin for two days prior to donation.
- Remember to bring your donor card, driver's license or two other forms of ID.

Don't forget to dress like your favorite rock star and prepare to Rock N' Roll Up Your Sleeve. Door prizes will be given for the best costume! To schedule an appointment, contact Senior Customer Service Representative Barbara Conner at 417-469-6204 or barbara.conner@modot.mo.gov. Visit www.redcrossblood.org/donating-blood for more information on donating blood.

Kudos to...

Mike Harris & his quick thinking!



Mrs. Kathy Jamison, a customer, visited the Willow Springs regional office on Aug. 3, to hand deliver a "thank you" card to Mike Harris. Harris is a maintenance crew leader for the Southeast District's regional bridge maintenance team.

Mrs. Jamison explained that a few weeks ago a driver nearly sideswiped two MoDOT vehicles in front of her—Senior Procurement Agent Gloria Bunch was traveling in the first, and Harris was traveling in the next. Unfortunately, the driver did sideswipe Mrs. Jamison's vehicle.

The driver sped off, and Mrs. Jamison said that if it wasn't for Harris's quick thinking, the driver would have gotten away completely. Thankfully, despite the pressure, Harris quickly called enforcement to catch the reckless driver before he completely had a chance to leave the area.

Click the image above to access the flyer for the Sept. 1 blood drive at MoDOT's Willow Springs Regional Office.

Campbell Bridge Nears Completion

The new Route 53/62 bridge located over the Union Pacific railroad in Campbell is taking shape! Construction started this March and after a few delays due to rainfall, the new bridge is expected to be open to traffic in approximately one month, weather permitting.

The bridge was initially closed in August 2014 as a safety measure. Following a routine bridge inspection, it was found that the nearly 80-year-old structure had shifted since 2012. When inspection crew compared the 2014 inspection with that 2012, they found a crack in one of the bridge columns.

Local residents are excited to see the new bridge coming to fruition, as finding funding to replace the bridge was a challenge. To fund the project, the Southeast District delayed other projects that were originally scheduled for 2014 in our Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).



The new Route 53/62 bridge in Campbell, Mo., is expected to open to traffic Sept. 15, weather permitting.

For more info

Nicole Thieret
Communications Manager
Southeast District
573.472.6632
Nicole.Thieret@modot.mo.gov

2675 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 160
Sikeston, MO 63801

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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